



Win a free author visit

with Princess BMX author Marie Basting

To celebrate the launch of Princess BMX and further publication success for the Manchester Writing School's MA programme, the Manchester Children's Book Festival is teaming up with author, and Manchester Met graduate and Associate Lecturer, Marie Basting to offer you the chance to win a free author visit.

A graduate of the MA Writing for Children, Marie's debut novel will be published by Chicken House books 1st August. A funny, upside-down fairy tale about a rebellious princess who discovers BMX and uses her new skills to put her extraordinary fantasy world to rights, Princess BMX is an empowering text that challenges the traditional princess trope and shows just what can happen when we defy the limits others place on us.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply e-mail M.Basting@mmu.ac.uk by 15th July 2019 entitling your e-mail Princess BMX Competition and providing the following information:

Name:

Organisation: Must be within 25 miles of Manchester City Centre – workshop is aimed at KS2.

Email:

Would you like to be added to Marie's mailing list? Yes / No*

**Your personal data will only be used to keep you up to date with Marie's latest news.*



An upside-down fairy tale adventure!

Trust me, the fairy tales have it so wrong. Dingy towers and wicked step-mums are the least of my worries: it's the boredom that will kill me. Honestly, apart from the endless supply of cupcakes, being a princess is pretty rubbish. I used to think about locking myself in a tower and throwing away the key. Thank the good goblin I discovered BMX. If it wasn't for BMX, nothing would have changed ...

Enchanted meets BMX in this brilliantly funny adventure for ages 7+.

Available for advance order: <https://www.chickenhousebooks.com/books/princess-bmx/>

PRIZE INCLUDES AN ASSEMBLY, WORKSHOP AND BOOK SIGNING – SCHOOL MUST AGREE TO BOOK SALES



Princes BMX *Sample* Events and Activities

These are just a few of the options for school visits and events with Marie Basting. While this competition is geared to KS2, Marie also has wide experience of delivering sessions suitable for KS3+, including her popular crime writing and descriptive writing workshops.

**For further details visit mariebasting.com or email riewriting@gmail.com.
[@riewriting](https://twitter.com/riewriting)**

When Marie Basting was a kid, it was the boys who rode BMX. Girls like her rode second-hand shoppers or wore roller skates. They also didn't become writers. Unfortunately, it took Marie far too long to realise things didn't have to be this way. But watching the BMXers and skateboarders at South Bank skatepark, she was encouraged to see the current generation of young people were quicker to challenge the limitations placed on them. Now Marie hopes to encourage more people – young and old - to defy expectations and be more like a BMXer.

Author Talks and Assemblies - Why we all need to be more BMX

With their resilience, determination and a culture of mutual support, there is a lot we can learn from BMXers. With reference to her own publishing journey, Marie discusses the similarities between the writing and BMX mindset and encourages everyone to find the extreme sporting hero within.

This is a fun, interactive presentation that can be tailored for different audiences. Schools and younger audiences can expect flying teabags, jaw-dropping BMX video clips and lots of laughs. Writers, should expect any of the above plus thoughtful insights into how we can build our support networks and maintain a positive writing mindset.

Workshop - Princess BMX Character Mash

Princess BMX is all about challenging expectations. This is true of the supporting characters too: a masculine fairy godfather who loves nothing better than his wife's home cooked squirrel; a tiny, cantankerous unicorn with bucked teeth; and a dragon who breathes sherbet rather than fire, are just some of the ways the author mixes things up.

With reference to Princess BMX, and using a Top Trumps style format, children will create their own unique characters. After illustrating their character, they'll highlight their unique traits and qualities and give them a problem – the key feature of any character-driven story. For older year groups, the workshop can be adapted to also cover plotting and story development.

Sample Craft Activities – Make a Tiny Bobble Hat for Tyson



Make a bobble hat for Tyson the tea bag, one of the upside-down fairy tale characters from Princess BMX. It's easier than it looks!

Marie has developed a number of fun activities and games that celebrate her characters, including designing an outfit for Jeb the puppy, the Princess Expectations Memory Game and the Aunt Maude's Eyeball versus Tyson Target Challenge.

PRIZE INCLUDES AN ASSEMBLY, WORKSHOP AND BOOK SIGNING – SCHOOL MUST AGREE TO BOOK SALES